

CLAIMS

1. A content reproduction apparatus for reproducing a recording medium on which one or two or more pieces of content are stored, the content reproduction apparatus comprising:

selection screen display means for displaying a selection screen from which the content to be reproduced is to be selected;

preread instruction generation means for detecting an identification state in which the selection of a specific piece of content from the selection screen is estimated, and generating a read instruction for reading the specific piece of content from the recording medium;

content storage means for reading the specific piece of content from the recording medium in compliance with the read instruction and storing the read content;

content determination means for detecting a selection input from the selection screen and determining the content to be reproduced; and

content reproduction means for reading the content determined by the content determination means from the content storage means and reproducing the read content.

2. The content reproduction apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein the specific piece of content includes at least first data and second data, and

when the specific piece of content is reproduced, the first data and the second data are simultaneously reproduced.

3. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the first data and the second data are stored on the recording medium and positioned physically apart from each other.

4. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the preread instruction generation means detects an identification state in which the selection of a specific piece of content from the selection screen is estimated, and generates a read instruction for reading only the second data of the specific piece of content from the recording medium, and the content storage means reads only the second data of the specific piece of content from the recording medium in compliance with the read instruction and stores the read second data.

5. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the first data is motion picture data, and the second data is after-recording data, which is to be reproduced simultaneously with the motion picture

data.

6. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identification state is a state where the specific piece of content is made selectable by selection means.

7. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the identification state is a state where a predetermined period of time has elapsed while the specific piece of content is selectable.

8. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the selection screen display means displays the selection screen containing thumbnails that are the images of selectable pieces of content.

9. A computer program for reproducing a recording medium on which one or two or more pieces of content are stored, the computer program enabling a computer to function as:

selection screen display means for displaying a selection screen from which the content to be reproduced is to be selected;

preread instruction generation means for detecting an identification state in which the selection of a specific piece of content from the selection screen is estimated, and generating a read instruction for reading

the specific piece of content from the recording medium;

content storage means for reading the specific piece of content from the recording medium in compliance with the read instruction and storing the read content;

content determination means for detecting a selection input from the selection screen and determining the content to be reproduced; and

content reproduction means for reading the content determined by the content determination means from the content storage means and reproducing the read content.

10. A content reproduction method for reproducing a recording medium on which one or two or more pieces of content are stored, the content reproduction method comprising:

a selection screen display step of displaying a selection screen from which the content to be reproduced is to be selected;

a preread instruction generation step of detecting an identification state in which the selection of a specific piece of content from the selection screen is estimated, and generating a read instruction for reading the specific piece of content from the recording medium;

a content storage step of reading the specific piece of content from the recording medium in compliance

with the read instruction and storing the read content in content storage means;

a content determination step of detecting a selection input from the selection screen and determining the content to be reproduced; and

a content reproduction step of reading the content determined by the content determination step from the content storage means and reproducing the read content.

11. The content reproduction method according to claim 10, wherein the specific piece of content includes at least first data and second data,

when the specific piece of content is reproduced, the first data and the second data are simultaneously reproduced,

the first data and the second data are stored on the recording medium and positioned physically apart from each other,

the preread instruction generation step detects an identification state in which the selection of a specific piece of content from the selection screen is estimated and generates a read instruction for reading only the second data of the specific piece of content from the recording medium, and

the content storage step reads only the second

data of the specific piece of content from the recording medium in compliance with the read instruction and stores the read second data.

12. The content reproduction method according to claim 11, wherein the first data is motion picture data, and the second data is after-recording data, which is to be reproduced simultaneously with the motion picture data.

13. The content reproduction method according to claim 10, wherein the identification state is a state where the specific piece of content is made selectable by selection means.

14. The content reproduction method according to claim 13, wherein the identification state is a state where a predetermined period of time has elapsed while the specific piece of content is selectable.

15. A content reproduction system comprising:
a user terminal, which is used by a user; and
a content server, which is connected to the user terminal via a communication network to supply one or two or more pieces of content to the user terminal;
wherein the content server includes
selection screen display means for
displaying a selection screen from which the content to



be reproduced is to be selected,

preread instruction generation means for detecting an identification state in which the selection of a specific piece of content from the selection screen is estimated, and transmitting a read instruction for reading the specific piece of content to the user terminal, and

content determination means for detecting a selection input from the selection screen and determining the content to be reproduced; and

the user terminal includes

content storage means for reading the specific piece of content from the content server in compliance with the read instruction and storing the read content, and

content reproduction means for reading the content determined by the content determination means from the content storage means and reproducing the read content.

16. The content reproduction system according to claim 15, wherein the specific piece of content includes at least first data and second data, and

when the specific piece of content is reproduced, the first data and the second data are simultaneously

reproduced.

17. The content reproduction system according to claim 16, wherein the first data and the second data are stored on the recording medium and positioned physically apart from each other.

18. The content reproduction system according to claim 17, wherein the preread instruction generation means detects an identification state in which the selection of a specific piece of content from the selection screen is estimated, and generates a read instruction for reading only the second data of the specific piece of content from the recording medium, and

the content storage means reads only the second data of the specific piece of content from the recording medium in compliance with the read instruction and stores the read second data.

19. The content reproduction system according to claim 18, wherein the first data is motion picture data, and the second data is after-recording data, which is to be reproduced simultaneously with the motion picture data.